

From: Frank Zitkus, Hebron CT

To: Environment Committee and Representative David Michel

Date: February 24, 2022

Re: Public comment, Raised Bill No. 117, "An Act Concerning Tree Removal on Properties under the Control of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection"

I support Bill No. 117 and wish to add my comments regarding Raised Bill No. 117, "An Act Concerning Tree Removal on Properties under the Control of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection". Please make these comments part of the public record.

**COMMENTS:**

Section 1 (a): The "arborist" should be an **International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist**. The ISA Certified Arborist should also have Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ). The referred to general statutes section 23-61a for "arborist" may need modification.

Add: Such arborist shall work independently from any tree removal service company to avoid a conflict of interest appearance.

Section 1 (b): Appoint an **ISA Certified Arborist and Forest Ecologist** for each state park, campground, **state forest and Wildlife Management Area** under the DEEP's custody and control." Perhaps the appointments should be made, recommended or reviewed by the Council on Environmental Quality.

**Note 1: in any instance in the Raised Bill that states "each state park and campground", such text could state "each state park, campground, state forest and Wildlife Management Area".**

**Note 2: in any instance in the Raised Bill that states "arborist", such text should state ISA Certified Arborist and Forest Ecologist**

Section 1(d): after line 46, the **ISA Certified Arborist and Forest Ecologist** shall consider the following:

**Add two considerations:**

(4) the ecosystem services for any such tree, shrub or groups of trees or shrubs shall be evaluated on a prescribed ecosystem form

(5) an ISA Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form shall be completed for any such tree, shrub or groups of trees or shrubs

**Add the following a section 1 (e) or establish a new section 1 (f):**

A native tree and or shrub replanting plan shall be prepared for any area in which trees or shrubs are removed. Such plan shall be approved by a Forest Ecologist. Such approved plan shall be implemented within the following growing season to mitigate any erosion or possible introduction interval for non-native species growth.

Thank you for your attention to and support for this important bill.